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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/699,670	10/30/2000	Kenji Matsuo	P/1071-1201	8232
2352	7590	08/17/2004	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403			GONZALEZ, JULIO C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2834	

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/699,670

Applicant(s) 

MATSUO ET AL.

Examiner

Julio C. Gonzalez

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12, 16-18, 22 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 13-15 and 19-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. Prosecution is reopened.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8-10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al (US 3,761,956).

Takahashi et al discloses a vibrating apparatus having a disk vibrating plate 2, a piezoelectric element 1 coupled to the central region of the disk vibrating plate 2, a support member 4 coupled to the disk vibrating plate 2 so as to have inner and outer vibrating surfaces (notice dashed lines in figure 1; column 1, lines 55-57). Moreover, vibration nodes 11, 12 are defined (see figures 1, 3) and the support member 4 is coupled to a cylindrical base member 5 (see figures 1, 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al in view of Kumon (US 3,860,838).

Takahashi et al discloses a vibrating apparatus having a disk vibrating plate 2, a piezoelectric element 1 coupled to the central region of the disk vibrating plate 2, a support member 4 coupled to the disk vibrating plate 2 so as to have inner and outer vibrating surfaces (notice dashed lines in figure 1; column 1, lines 55-57). Moreover, vibration nodes 11, 12 are defined (see figures 1, 3) and the support member 4 is coupled to a cylindrical base member 5 (see figures 1, 3). However, Takahashi et al does not disclose explicitly that the cylindrical base member has an outer periphery, which lies outside the circular path of support member.

On the other hand, Kumon discloses for the purpose of providing a piezoelectric device that can amplify acoustic waves without increasing the size of the vibrator and power consumption, a vibrating disk 4, a piezoelectric device 3, a

support member 7g, and a cylindrical base member 7b that has an outer periphery, which lies outside the circular path of the support member 7g. Moreover, the thickness of the cylindrical member 7b is thicker than the support member 7g (see figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a vibration apparatus as disclosed by Takahashi et al and to modify the invention by having the cylindrical base member with an outer periphery, which lies outside the circular path of support member for the purpose of providing a piezoelectric device that can amplify acoustic waves without increasing the size of the vibrator and power consumption as disclosed by Kumon.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 13-15 and 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is 571-272-2024. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jcg

August 12, 2004


THOMAS M. DOUGHERTY
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